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Book on "the last Carolingians" and "the Origins of the Feudal Régime." M. Kleinclausz, who last year published his work on *L'Empire Carolingien*, has the same subject here.

Although necessarily separated in the chronological make-up of the book, M. Bayet's and M. Pfister's contributions form logical unities. The chapter on the Merovingian Church supplements naturally the account of the early Church. In M. Pfister's work, his chapter on Merovingian institutions and the origins of feudalism might almost be brought together under the latter title and published apart from the context.

Now that more than half of this history has been published, it has come to be almost a work of supererogation to praise the individual parts. Yet in this volume one may well become enthusiastic over the qualities common to all three—the delightful style, the skillful use and embodiment of passages from the original sources, and the carefully selected bibliographical notes. In this volume, too, there is a considerable number of notes discussing disputed points. Some other volumes have been deficient in this respect. Even here M. Bayet accepts the Edict of Milan (page 11) without suggesting that its authenticity has been questioned; and (page 13) he makes pagans equivalent to peasants in the fourth century, and both words derived from *pagani*, without a hint that this idea does not now command universal approval. Occasionally there are other statements which are open to discussion, but this is due generally to the fact that for these events the sources are few and unsatisfactory, so that the statements must rest upon skillful deductions rather than assured facts.

The volume as a whole has unusual excellence; possibly the parts that will prove most interesting to students are the chapter on the Carolingian Civilization, by M. Kleinclausz; the Origins of Feudalism, by M. Pfister, and the section on *Les Lettres* (pp. 243-251), by M. Bayet, although many will doubtless enjoy the latter's *L'Évangélisation de la Gaule*.

In conclusion, we may congratulate ourselves that this history is now complete for the whole of the Middle Ages. It has fulfilled its early promise of superseding all other histories of France.

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*An Introduction to the History of Western Europe.* By JAMES HARVEY ROBINSON, Professor of History in Columbia University. Pp. x, 714. Price, \$1.60. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1903.

Professor Robinson's text-book in medieval and modern European history marks a distinct advance in American historical text-book writing in the general European field, and there seems to be no good reason why the author's manifest intention to invade England should not be realized. The book is "Entered at Stationers' Hall." It has striking merits and its defects are, relatively, minor.

The conspicuous merit of the book is its interpretative character; it is an explanatory history and not simply a narrative history. Events, con-

ditions and institutions are presented in such a way that the average student can hardly avoid learning what it is all about.

This particular merit of the book is conditioned upon a steady effort to pass over, or present merely the fruits of, the lesser movements and devote attention to men and matters of prime importance. The most marked instance of the success of Professor Robinson in this work of perspective is his treatment of the church, especially the medieval church, which is scholarly, fair-minded and illuminating. The all-embracing activities, the *universal* aspects of the medieval church are most skilfully presented.

Now and then, however, the author fails to keep his work up to this high level. His treatment of the Crusades is, relatively, half-hearted and inadequate. In fact, his general ignoring of Byzantine affairs is a blemish, and the title of the text-book is no sufficient apology. Unfavorable criticism must be passed, also, upon the author's chapters on England, not because of their brevity—they are even too full of detail—but because of their general lifelessness and relative inferiority. They are confessedly based upon two of the older treatises (preface, page iv), and their preparation probably, with justice, bored the author. In his treatment of the Italian Renaissance, Professor Robinson appears to some extent to have forgotten his explanatory rôle. The average student will fail to grasp adequately the meaning and significance of the whole Renaissance movement, more especially its history beyond the Alps. The extra-Italian Renaissance is not treated in a separate chapter, as it should be, but is scatteringly dealt with in several sections of the book. On the other hand, nothing but gratitude should be felt for the author's heroic abandonment of the Germanies of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Their history is most properly summarized at the opening of the chapter on the sixteenth century.

In surveying the proportions of the book, as a whole, much satisfaction will be felt, although it is hardly possible to avoid the conclusion that the latter part of it suffers from undue compression. The Lutheran revolt, to be sure, is treated with the utmost generosity, but the revolt of the Netherlands clearly lacks space, and the great Elector surely is entitled to more than some half-dozen lines. The problem of proportion is, however, most difficult, and Professor Robinson has offered a good solution.

Of distinctly minor importance, because easily corrigible in subsequent editions, are many slight errors of omission and commission. For example, Ponthieu, one of the English possessions on the continent, 1360, is omitted in the text, although indicated on the map (page 257). This holds true of the Channel Islands also. Nor is it consistent, to say the least, to assert that the French king "never admitted that he had not the right to levy taxes if he wished without consulting his subjects" (page 286), and to characterize, a few pages below, the Estates' agreement to the *taille* of 1439 as a fatal concession (page 299). Moreover, the *taille* of 1439 was not increased, as asserted, but was soon dropped, a royal *taille* having been imposed.

The book reads well. The style is kept well in hand, there are only a few sentences which need ironing out and only a few colloquialisms like

"pretty much all of southern France" (page 126). The book will prove very helpful to the man in active life, but it will be especially valuable to the college student. Its best use demands the association of lectures and outside reading, the book itself serving as the guiding thread. The "Readings in European History," designed to accompany the history, will, when published, accentuate its usefulness. The text-book is bound to make rapid conquests in colleges and universities, where, at present, it cannot encounter impregnable opposition. It is of college grade and should not be pushed into the high schools.

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